

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus ~~for printing an image based on image data, which receives, from an external apparatus, print content description data including information on a layout of an image described in a print content description language, and which prints the image, said printing apparatus comprising:~~

a priority decision unit operable to decide ~~whether~~ which to ~~prioritize~~ prioritize, a quality of the image at a ~~the~~ time of printing or a speed of processing ~~of the image data of the image,~~ based on the print content description data including information on layout instructions for printing the image, the print content description data being transmitted from the external apparatus and received by said printing apparatus;

a print data generation unit operable to generate print data for causing said printing apparatus to print data including the image, based on the following: (1) the print content description data, (2) the decision made by said ~~the~~ priority decision unit, and (3) the image data that is obtained from the external apparatus when the image data of the image laid out based on one of the layout instructions that is included in the print content description data is located outside of said printing apparatus; and

a printing unit operable to perform printing based on ~~print~~ the print data generated by said ~~the~~ print data generation unit.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case where a plurality of images are arranged in a sheet, and the print content description data indicates that the plurality of images are arranged in the sheet to be printed, said ~~the~~ priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing of the image data rather than the quality of each of the plurality of images at the time of printing, and said ~~the~~ print data generation unit generates the print data based on the ~~said~~ decision made by said ~~the~~ priority decision unit.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case where a plurality of images are arranged in a sheet, and the print content description data indicates ~~that~~ that (i) the plurality of images are arranged in the sheet to

~~be printed;~~ printed and (ii) each of the plurality of images is to be printed at ~~a~~ the number of pixels smaller than a predetermined number of pixels, ~~said~~ the priority decision unit decides to prioritize ~~that the speed of processing of the image data should be prioritized~~ rather than the quality of ~~said~~ each of the plurality of images at the time of printing, and ~~the~~ said print data generation unit generates the print data based on ~~the~~ said decision made by ~~said~~ the priority decision unit.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case ~~where:~~ 1) where (1) a plurality of images are arranged in a ~~sheet;~~ sheet, (2) the print content description data indicates ~~that:~~ i) that (i) the plurality of images are arranged in the sheet ~~to be printed;~~ printed and (ii) each of the plurality of images is to be printed at ~~a~~ the number of pixels smaller than a predetermined number of ~~pixels;~~ pixels, and (3) the plurality of images are different from one another, ~~said~~ the priority decision unit decides to prioritize ~~that the speed of processing of the image data should be prioritized~~ rather than the quality of ~~said~~ each of the plurality of images at the time of printing, and ~~said~~ the print data generation unit generates the print data based on ~~the~~ said decision made by ~~said~~ the priority decision unit.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein in a case where the print content description data indicates that the image is to be printed at ~~a~~ the number of pixels smaller than ~~the~~ a predetermined number of pixels, ~~said~~ the priority decision unit decides to prioritize ~~that the speed of processing of the image data should be prioritized~~ rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, and ~~said~~ the print data generation unit generates the print data based on ~~the~~ said decision made by ~~said~~ the priority decision unit.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein when ~~said~~ the priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing of the image data rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, and both ~~the~~ image data of high resolution and ~~the~~ image data of low resolution are generated for the image, ~~said~~ the print data generation unit generates the print data based on the image data of low resolution.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein when ~~said~~ the priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing ~~of~~ the image data rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, ~~said~~ the print data generation unit generates the print data by ~~partly skipping a portion of the plurality of plural~~ steps taken in processing the image data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein when ~~said~~ the priority decision unit decides to prioritize the speed of processing ~~of~~ the image data rather than the quality of the image at the time of printing, and Joint Photographic Experts Group format is used as a format of the image data, ~~said~~ the print data generation unit generates the print data by decoding only a Direct Current component of the image data.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A method of printing an image ~~with a printing apparatus based on image data,~~ which receives, from an external apparatus, print content description data including information on a layout of an image described in a print content description language, and which prints the image, said method comprising:

~~a priority decision step of deciding whether~~ which to prioritize ~~a quality of the image at a the time of printing or a speed of processing of the image data of the image, based on the print content description data including information on layout instructions for printing the image, the print content description data being transmitted from the external apparatus and received by the printing apparatus;~~

~~a print data generation step of generating print data for causing the printing apparatus to print data including the image, based on the following: (1) the print content description data, (2) the decision made in said deciding the priority decision step, and (3) the image data that is obtained from the external apparatus when the image data of the image laid out based on one of the layout instructions that is included in the print content description data is located outside of the printing apparatus; and~~

~~a printing step of performing printing with the printing apparatus based on the generated print data generated in the print data generation step.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for printing an image with a printing apparatus based on image data, which receives, from an external apparatus, print content description data including information on a layout of an image described in a print content description language, and which prints the image, said computer program causing a computer to execute the following steps a method comprising:

a ~~priority decision step of deciding whether~~ ~~which to prioritize~~ ~~prioritize~~, a quality of the image at ~~a~~ the time of printing or a speed of processing ~~of the image data of the image~~, based on the print content description data including information on layout instructions for printing the image, the print content description data being transmitted from the external apparatus and received by the printing apparatus;

a ~~print data generation step of generating print data for causing the printing apparatus to print data~~ including the image, based on the following: (1) the print content description data, (2) the decision made in ~~said deciding the priority decision~~ step, and (3) the image data that is obtained from the external apparatus when the image data of the image laid out based on one of the layout instructions that is included in the print content description data is located outside of the printing apparatus; and

a ~~printing step of performing printing with the printing apparatus based on the generated print data generated in the print data generation step.~~